

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Verschueren in view of Thornton U. S. patent 4,315,193 (herein "Thornton").

Claim 1, directed to a high-pressure discharge lamp having an outer bulb substantially tubular in shape, was previously amended to call for the outer bulb to have a light-scattering layer.

Since Verschueren does not disclose a light-scattering layer in a high-pressure discharge lamp, Thornton is now cited to show a light-scattering layer in such a lamp.

However, Thornton's outer bulb is not tubular, but is of the conventional ovate shape. Moreover, Thornton's light-scattering layer is provided in combination with a phosphor layer. The purpose of the light-scattering layer is to return UV light back to the phosphor layer to energize the phosphor. See col. 4, lines 22-25.

In contrast, Applicants' lamp has no phosphor layer, but only a light-scattering layer. Unlike Thornton's light-scattering layer, which operates to enhance emission from the adjacent phosphor layer, the purpose of Applicants' light-scattering layer is to diffuse the light emitted by the inner discharge vessel. See


page 1, line 27 of the specification.

Since the function of Thornton's light-scattering layer is to enhance the light emission of the phosphor layer and not to diffuse the light emission from the discharge vessel, and since Verschueren's lamp lacks any such phosphor layer, Thornton would not suggest to the skilled artisan the addition of a light-scattering layer to Verschueren's lamp.

Accordingly, the claims are not obvious in view of the cited combination of references, and it is urged that the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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